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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 05BOGOTA4466, COLOMBIA: PEACE COMMISSIONER DISCUSSES PROCESS

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05BOGOTA4466**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">05BOGOTA4466</a>	<a href="#">2005-05-12 22:43</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Bogota</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.semana.com/wikileaks/Seccion/168.aspx>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

id: 32511  
date: 5/12/2005 22:43  
refid: 05BOGOTA4466  
origin: Embassy Bogota  
classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
destination: 05STATE84333  
header:

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 004466

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/09/2015  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [KJUS](#) [CO](#) [PHUH](#) [ELN](#)  
SUBJECT: COLOMBIA: PEACE COMMISSIONER DISCUSSES PROCESS  
WITH ELN; CRITICIZES CUBAN AND FRENCH INTERFERENCE

REF: STATE 84333

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood for reasons  
1.4 (b) and (d)

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Summary  
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1. (C) In a May 10 conversation with the Ambassador, Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo was pessimistic about re-starting a peace process with the ELN. He expressed concern that Cuba and the other "group of friends" countries continued to communicate with the ELN without GOC authorization, and were pushing to renew a peace process that would not/not hold the ELN to a cease-fire or an end to kidnapping. He also complained that France had held meetings with the FARC to secure Ingrid Betancourt's release without notifying the GOC, and predicted French authorities would continue doing so despite GOC objections. End Summary.

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ELN Process Unlikely  
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12. (C) Peace Commissioner Restrepo told the Ambassador he was not optimistic that a peace process could be restarted with the ELN after the group rejected Mexican facilitation. He charged that Cuba had been working with the other "group of friends" countries (Spain, Switzerland, France, and Norway) to remove the Mexicans since December 2004. Restrepo expressed concerns about Cuba's ongoing efforts to reach out to the ELN, noting that the Cuban Ambassador to Colombia, in the name of the group of friends, had been communicating directly with the ELN without GOC permission. Restrepo said he would try to persuade the Cuban Ambassador to stop, and planned to make the same appeal to the Norwegian charge, who recently took over from Cuba as coordinator for the group of friends.

13. (C) Restrepo believed that Cuba resented the Mexican role and had disagreed with Mexico's decision to hold the ELN to Colombia's demand for a cease-fire and cessation of kidnapping before talking. He said that, by the time the ELN rejected Mexican facilitation on April 17 reportedly because of Mexico's vote against Cuba at the UN Commission on Human Rights, the process had already been frozen over the ELN's refusal to cease kidnapping. Restrepo noted the GOC had even offered to fund a peace and demobilization process in response to ELN public claims that it could not afford to end kidnapping. The ELN privately admitted that its refusal was political rather than financial.

14. (C) Restrepo also said the FARC was pressuring the ELN to continue kidnapping and the ELN leadership did not have the power to force its units to stop. He asserted that kidnapping was the only weapon the ELN had to intimidate the public and pressure the GOC, and that ELN senior commander Antonio Garcia continued to be against a peace process and in favor of closer ties to the FARC.

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France Overstepping  
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15. (C) Restrepo noted that France had been particularly difficult with respect to the peace process because of its determination to secure Ingrid Betancourt's release. Just prior to FARC commander Simon Trinidad's extradition, the French Ambassador to Colombia notified Restrepo that an influential French civilian had met with FARC Secretariat member Raul Reyes without GOC permission. According to the French Ambassador, said Restrepo, Reyes had agreed to release at least six hostages (three men and three women) in exchange for Trinidad not being extradited. President Uribe authorized Restrepo to explore the possibility. The FARC ultimately rejected the GOC's offer not to extradite Trinidad if the FARC released all 63 of its hostages.

16. (C) Since that time, the un-named French citizen had met at least once again with Reyes without notifying the GOC. The Frenchman even complained when stopped and questioned by Colombian security forces. Restrepo predicted that France would continue doing whatever was necessary, including paying the FARC, to get Betancourt released regardless of GOC objections. The Ambassador said he would pass on Restrepo's concerns to Washington.

17. (C) Comment: According to reftel, French Foreign Minister Barnier told the Secretary on May 2 that France "is careful to coordinate with the Colombians" on its contacts with the FARC and denied that Colombian officials had learned of French contacts after the fact on several occasions.  
WOOD

=====CABLE ENDS=====